

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 915

By Litz

A RESOLUTION to congratulate W. G. Siler upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is W. G. "Petie" Siler, who devoted more than three decades to the education and instruction of young students and athletes in Tennessee; on March 20, 2004, Mr. Siler will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high schools; and

WHEREAS, born in Oklahoma City on April 27, 1895, Mr. Siler excelled in a broad range of endeavors throughout his life; he was a 1914 graduate of Knoxville Central High School, where he was Captain of the football, basketball, and track teams, a halfback on the Knoxville All-City-County Football Team, and a State Champion in track; and

WHEREAS, knowing the great importance of education, he pursued higher learning at the University of Delaware, University of Tennessee, and University of Tennessee College of Law; and

WHEREAS, he was always dedicated to his fellow man and volunteered to serve as an ambulance driver for the Army of France in World War I in 1917; in 1942, he joined the American Red Cross to serve in Iran, New Guinea, and the Philippines during World War II; and

WHEREAS, during his professional career, he became a legend in East Tennessee athletics; over the years, he served Knoxville Central High School, Knoxville High School, the

University of Tennessee, LaFollette High School, and Morristown High School as a Football, Basketball, and Track coach; and

WHEREAS, under his able tutelage, Coach Siler's teams won the 1920 Football State championship; 1922, 1927, and 1928 Track State Championships; and eleven boys' and girls' basketball District or East Tennessee Championships; and

WHEREAS, in 1928, his athletes garnered nationwide fame by setting a National High School Record in Chicago in the Two-Mile Relay, with a time of 8 minutes 25.7 seconds; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Mr. Siler's impact cannot be adequately measured by winning seasons alone; his positive impact on the lives of students, athletes, fellow teachers, and administrators still resounds in the community today; and

WHEREAS, his impact upon this State has been justly honored not only by this current honor but also by membership in the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame and the Northeast Tennessee Hall of Fame; as well as by having the grounds and gardens at the Alzheimer's Support Center in Morristown and the gymnasium and football field at Morristown High School named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his coaching duties, Coach Siler found time to lend his time and remarkable talents to the National Federation of High School Coaches Rules Committee and to the College Football Rules Committee as a High School Representative; he also served as a member of the Hamblen County Court and the City Council of Morristown and maintained a public pool in Morristown for many years; and

WHEREAS, his professional and civic endeavors aside, he always maintained the highest family values and was most grateful for the love and companionship he shared with the former Monnie Agee, whom he joined in holy matrimony in 1925; he was also the loving father of Patricia Siler Harmon and the proud grandfather of Robert Siler Harmon and Sue Harmon Goodman and the devoted great-grandfather of John Siler Harmon, Rebeka Goodman, and Elizabeth Goodman; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Morristown; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Coach Siler has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, W. G. Siler, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplified the type of selfless community servants and civic leaders whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mould the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether on the athletic fields or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the induction of W. G. "Petie" Siler into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his substantial legacy as a teacher, coach, and community servant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.